

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKER & FAMILY SUPPORT

BLUE DOG COALITION
CO-CHAIR FOR ADMINISTRATION

FUTURE FORUM
CHAIR



CONGRESSWOMAN STEPHANIE MURPHY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FLORIDA, 7TH DISTRICT

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1710 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4035

ORLANDO OFFICE
225 E ROBINSON ST., SUITE 525
ORLANDO, FL 32801
(888) 205-5421

SANFORD OFFICE
110 W FIRST ST., SUITE 210
SANFORD, FL 32771
(888) 205-5421

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Desantis:


On March 6, 2020, the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act* (P.L. 116-123) became law. The law defines coronavirus as a “disaster” under the Small Business Act and provides funding to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to make low-interest loans to small businesses and non-profit organizations that have suffered economic injury as a result of coronavirus and that need financial assistance not otherwise available on reasonable terms. Loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that cannot be paid because of the impact of coronavirus. Yesterday, the SBA published guidance on its website about the new coronavirus disaster loan program.

Under the law, in order for small businesses and non-profit organizations in Florida to access these low-interest disaster loans, you in your capacity as governor must submit to SBA a formal request for assistance. Given that Florida has already experienced significant economic disruption due to coronavirus, and is likely to confront even greater challenges going forward, I respectfully urge you to submit a specific and detailed request as soon as possible, whereupon SBA can issue an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

It is my hope that we can target immediate assistance to those geographic areas and business sectors in the state that are suffering the greatest economic harm from coronavirus. This should include small businesses in central Florida that are reliant on tourism, travel, and international trade. Swift economic assistance will be critical for the survival of these businesses and their workers, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for everything you are doing in response to this threat to public health and economic security. My office and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress